

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1985 *Tantilla briggsi*.

***Tantilla briggsi* Savitzky and Smith**

Tantilla briggsi Savitzky and Smith, 1971:167. Type-locality, "12 de Julio, Oaxaca, Mexico." Holotype, Univ. Colorado Mus. 40000, adult male, collected between July and September, 1968 by Thomas MacDougall (not examined by author).

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. A species of *Tantilla* with no pale middorsal stripe and an interrupted pale lateral stripe on adjacent halves of dorsal scale rows 3 and 4. The ground color is brown. The venter is cream anteriorly, grading to pale pink (red-orange in life?) posteriorly. The head pattern consists of a pale nuchal collar, narrowly divided medially, crossing the posterior tips of the parietals and the ultimate supralabial. The remainder of the head is black except for a pale snout spot and pale pre- and postocular spots. Ventral and subcaudal counts are 172 and 68, respectively. *Tantilla briggsi* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of an interrupted pale lateral stripe situated on adjacent halves of rows 3 and 4, no pale middorsal stripe, a pale nuchal collar divided medially, a brown dorsal ground color, a paraventral scale divided into dark upper and pale lower halves and 172 ventrals and 68 subcaudals.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Only the original description of Savitzky and Smith (1971) exists.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Savitzky and Smith (1971) provided a black-and-white photograph of the entire snake.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla briggsi* is known only from the type-locality at a low elevation (ca. 90–100 m) on the Caribbean versant of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Most of the limited information on this species is in Savitzky and Smith (1971). Wilson (1982a, 1983) commented on relationships and (1982b) provided a summary of published information on this taxon.

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *briggsi* is a patronym in honor of Dr. William T. Briggs, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

LITERATURE CITED

Savitzky, Alan H., and Hobart M. Smith. 1971. A new snake from Mexico of the *taeniata* group of *Tantilla*. *J. Herpetol.* 5(3–4):167–171.

Wilson, Larry David. 1982a. A review of the colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* of Central America. *Milwaukee Pub. Mus. Contrib. Biol. Geol.* (52):1–77.

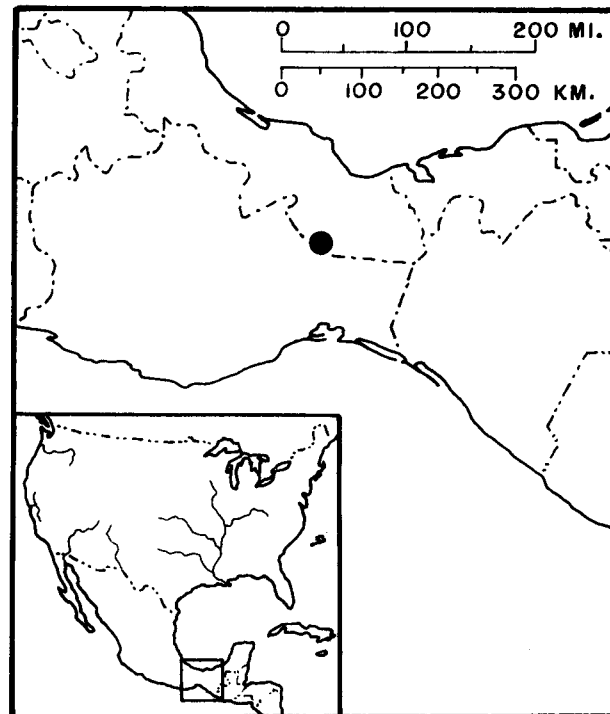
— 1982b. *Tantilla*. *Cat. Amer. Amphib. Rept.*: 307.1–307.4.

— 1983. A new species of *Tantilla* of the *taeniata* group from Chiapas, Mexico. *J. Herpetol.* 17(1):54–59.

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MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality and the only known locality for the species.